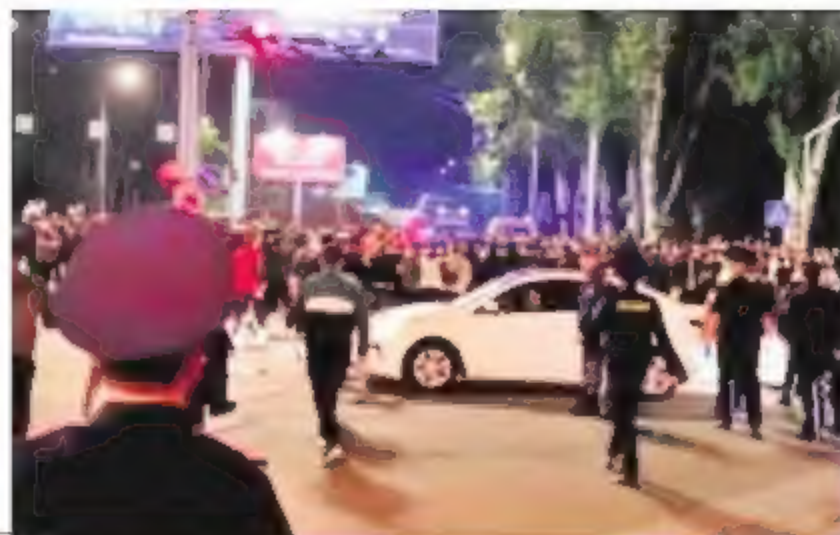




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ADVISORY TO INDIAN STUDENTS IN KYRGYZSTAN CAPITAL AFTER BRAWL
India & Pak issued advisories to their students in Kyrgyzstan urging them to stay indoors amid mob violence against foreign students there

28 INJURED IN FRIDAY NIGHT CLASHES

Twenty-eight people, including three foreigners, were injured in Friday night's clashes. The Times of Central Asia reported. The Indian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan said, "We are in touch with our students. The situation is presently calm but students are advised to stay indoors for the moment and get in touch with the Embassy in case of any issue." Helpline: 0555710041

EGYPTIAN, KYRGZ STUDENTS FIGHT IN HOSTEL

A viral video on social media showed medical students from Egypt and Kyrgyzstan involved in a brawl at a hostel on May 13. Since no action was taken, locals gathered on Friday night for a demonstration. Police arrested four citizens for incitement and detained three foreigners for hoodlomanism, after which the crowd dispersed on Saturday morning.

15,000

INDIAN STUDENTS ARE SAID TO BE IN KYRGYZSTAN

CORRUPT TANGO IN DELHI: MODI PM WON'T JOIN DEBATE: RAHUL



Narendra Modi addressing his first rally in New Delhi on Saturday | PH

Mocks depletion of the Congress in the capital

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday tore into the Congress-AAP alliance in Delhi, saying the world is watching how one corrupt party is covering for another corrupt party. The apparent reference was to the slew of corruption charges hobbling the AAP government led by Arvind Kejriwal in the national capital.

In his first rally in Delhi for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, Modi alleged that the Congress would go to any extent to pursue vote bank politics. He pointed out that during the 2014 elections, the Congress government had handed over 123 properties spread across prime locations in Delhi to the Waqf Board for votes.

Describing the Opposition's INDIA bloc as opportunistic, he recalled how they had held Delhi hostage for months by blocking roads and triggering riots after Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Mocking the depletion and degeneration of the Congress, Modi said the party that once ruled the country is no longer in a position to contest even in four seats in Delhi. "Almost four generations of the Congress ruled Delhi, but today they don't have the strength to contest on four seats of Delhi. The Congress is not even able to fight from where they have their courts at 10 Janpath!"

Reaching out to the slum-dwellers, who constitute a major vote bank, he said, "We are working to regularise unauthorised colonies and them pucca houses."



Rahul Gandhi gestures while addressing a rally in New Delhi | PH

Seamless alliance with AAP, says Cong leader

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit the campaign trail in the national capital, saying he would press the button for the AAP and Arvind Kejriwal would vote for the Congress in the forthcoming elections. All seven seats of Delhi will go to polls on May 25.

In a show of solidarity within the INDIA bloc, Rahul, in his maiden poll rally in Chandni Chowk, sought to remind voters that the AAP is contesting four seats and Congress three as part of the seat-sharing deal. "As Kanhaiya said earlier, 'Rahul ji will vote for AAP and Kejriwal ji will vote for Congress', he said while welcoming party candidate Kanhaiya Kumar on the stage.

"We have to come together because BJP leaders have openly said that they will tear the Constitution," Rahul alleged, urging people to vote for the candidates of the INDIA bloc.

Rahul's vote is in the New Delhi constituency where AAP's Somnath Bharti is contesting while Kejriwal's vote is in Chandni Chowk where Congress candidate J P Agarwal is in the fray.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rahul said the former would not hold a debate with him, though he is available for it "anytime, anywhere". He claimed that the PM would not be able to answer his line of questioning. "The first question would be on his relationship with Adani: the second on electoral bonds; the third on farm laws. I don't think he can answer them."

RCB win nail-biter vs CSK, make it to IPL playoffs

GOMESH S @ Bengaluru

A month ago, Bengaluru had seemingly gone beyond the point of no return. After eight matches, they had won one and lost seven. Now, in the most incredible of circumstances, they have engineered a run to the knock-out stages for the ages.

In a do-or-die clash against Chennai Super Kings, the five-time champions, RCB won by 27 runs to record their sixth win on the trot. In the process,

they leapfrogged MS Dhoni & Co (was this his last match?) on NRR. In a couple of days time, they will walk out in Ahmedabad, where RCB's rejuvenation began against Gujarat when Will Jacks and Virat Kohli finished a 200+ run chase with more than three overs to go. When the match began on Saturday, Kohli and Faf du Plessis, as they have done lots of times already in the second half of the campaign in 2024, started off like a train (31/0 in three overs).

CONTINUED ON: P13



RCB players celebrate after their victory against Chennai Super Kings by 27 runs and making it to IPL playoffs, in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

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1st Indian civilian astronaut takes off today



Captain Gopichand Thotakura

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

CAPTAIN Gopichand Thotakura, the second Indian who will travel to space after then SpN Ldr Rakesh Sharma in April 1984, is set to make history on Sunday with Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

He will be India's first civilian astronaut to go to space,

and will be wearing a badge bearing the Indian flag as he takes flight on Sunday.

Along with six other crew members, the seventh human flight of the New Shepard, Thotakura will go beyond the Karman Line — the boundary that separates Earth's atmosphere and outer space and return to Earth. This mission not only

signifies an Indian's re-entry into the space race, but also makes history with its crew of distinguished astronauts.

Thotakura's flight will be the first Indian astronaut's foray into space exploration in four decades, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma's iconic journey aboard Soyuz T-11 in April 1984. CONTINUED ON: P5

Would Narendra Modi's 'Hanuman' get blessings?

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

FOR Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, merely winning the Hajipur (SC) Lok Sabha seat his legendary father Ram Vilas Paswan held for decades, would be a disgrace. He wants to register victory with an eye-popping margin so as to establish himself as the political heir of the Ram Vilas legacy.

Chirag's party is an ally of BJP-led NDA. He is locked in a straight fight with Parag. Whether or not the sulking Parag would damage Chirag's prospects remains to be seen. "This time Chirag is set to create history by registering his victory by a record margin. He has his father's legacy on the one hand and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blessings on the other. Modi's 'Hanuman' will be put to test in the true sense," said Deekhi Nandan Singh, 65, a resident of Bidupur in Vaishali district. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had lam-pooned Chirag as

Modi's Hanuman recently.

At a recent rally, Modi had lavished praise on Chirag, saying he considers him his son. "Chirag is a true representative of Bihar; the future of Bihar. He is also a successful MP. If you vote for Chirag, it will directly go to Modi's account," the PM said.

Making a similar pitch, Tejashwi had told his party at a recent campaign address, "If you want to see me as chief minister, then ensure victory of Shiv Chandra Ram from Hajipur." It was a clear message to RJD workers to rally around Ram.

If social activist Navneet Kumar's opinion is anything to go by, people in general are discussing local issues but it is the caste factor that will overshadow everything.

The caste arithmetic in Hajipur is interesting. Ram is banking on the Muslim-Yadav vote bank of the RJD plus that of his Ravidas community. As for the NDA, it is wooing the non-Yadavs, OBCs, EBCs and Dalits, particularly Paswans, the caste Chirag belongs to.

Action on Prajwal OK, but false case against Revanna, says Gowda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BREAKING his silence on the sexual abuse charges against his grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda on Saturday clarified that he has no objection to the legal action initiated against Prajwal. But he alleged that the ruling Congress has "created" a case against his son and MLA HD Revanna.

Prajwal fled the country after casting his vote in Hassan on April 26. After this, the Karnataka government set up an SIT based on the state women's commission's recommendation, to probe the Hassan sex scandal. Meanwhile, the SIT arrested Revanna on May 4 in connection with the alleged abduction of a victim of the alleged sexual abuse. Revanna got bail and was released from jail on May 14. But he is facing another case of alleged sexual abuse and hearing will be held on Monday.

Gowda made his last public appearance on April 26 when he cast his vote at Paduvahallipalle village in Hassan district along with his wife Channamma and family members. He did not step out of his Padmanabha Nagar house in Bengaluru after the scandal came to light. P4

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EXPRESS READ

Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar arrested

New Delhi: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested in connection with the alleged assault on AAP MP Swati Maliwal. Meanwhile, Kejriwal said he and other leaders would go to the BJP headquarters on Sunday, and dared the "prime minister to send anyone he wants to jail" | P9

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